

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, August 25, 2020

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Michelle Gottlieb, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

Web-based video conferencing meeting of Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of May 28th as amended. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of June 4th as amended. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of June 9th as submitted. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of June 23rd as submitted. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of July 9th as amended. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of July 21st as amended. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of August 4th as submitted. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of August 11th as submitted. All in favor and motion passed.

Andrew stated that there are 262 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Marblehead and no recent deaths. There are less than five active cases currently. The state is reviewing death records to learn if COVID-19 is the primary or secondary cause of death. There are high rates in surrounding communities of COVID-19. Lynn is considered a hot spot at the moment. Andrew emphasized the importance to continue to social distance and wear a face covering and wash hands. Also, change a surgical mask frequently.

Masks with valves are not recommended as a face covering. The valve can release respiratory droplets which can result in a transmission of the virus. The 2-ply gaiter facial coverings are better than the single ply covering and a cotton mask.

Helaine gave an update on the reopening committee for schools. The following is the plan for students to return to school: Pre-K begin September 14 in classroom

Kindergarten and first grade begin September 1st in classroom

Second grade to begin September 28th in classroom

Third grade through twelve grade will begin remote learning until October 5th and then change to hybrid learning.

On August 24th the committee received 2650 responses to a recent survey that was mailed out to parents. The results indicated that less than 10% wanted remote learning. The superintendent has held many listening sessions.

Andrew recently did a walk thru in all schools to look at the air exchange in classrooms. He concluded that opening windows and installing micron trapping filters is advised. Table and pedestal fans are not recommended. Sinks in the classrooms are for handwashing only. Water fountains will not be open. Water will be supplied to all the students. Masks need to be worn the entire time in school. There will be water and mask breaks. Students will not be allowed to arrive early to school. All students whether remote or classroom must be vaccinated for influenza unless medically excused.

MOTION for the Board of Health to recommend students returning to school wear a mask. If a student doesn't have a mask one should be offered. If the mask is refused the student shall be sent home. All in favor in a polled vote and motion passed.

MOTION for the Board of Health to recommend to the school committee that masks with valves are not safe and should be prohibited. All in favor in a polled vote and motion passed.

Todd opened up the meeting to the additional 14 people in attendance to questions.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30pm.

Curbside pickup of hazardous waste will take place on Tuesday, September 8th. Residents must sign up on line and prepay.

A fall flu clinic for seniors and employees will take place. Details to follow.

MOTION to close meeting. All in favor and motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk